



Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Violence and Injury

General Survey Information

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is part of a biennial national effort led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The YRBS monitors health risks and behaviors in six categories, which are related to the leading causes of mortality and morbidity among both youth and adults. Data is collected from 9th through 12th graders on behaviors that contribute to physical activity, nutrition, tobacco use, alcohol and other drug use, violence and injuries, and sexual behavior.

The Problem

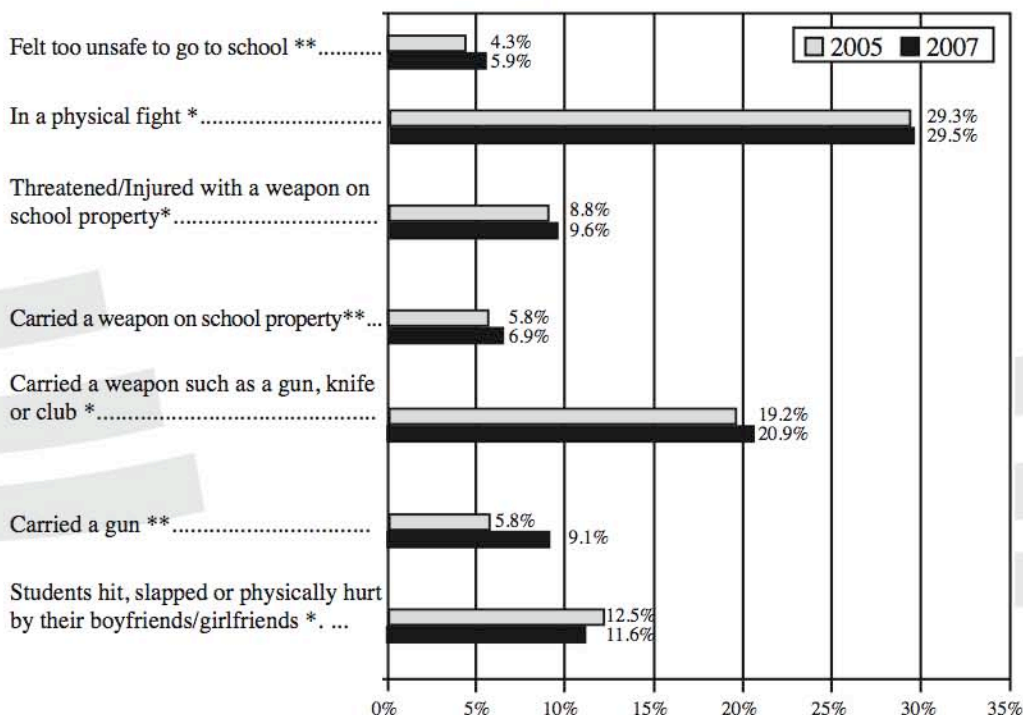
Violence is a serious threat to the health and well being of children and adolescents in the United States today. According to the CDC, behaviors such as being involved in a physical fight and carrying a weapon can contribute to violence.¹

Violence

The 2007 data shows that 6.9% of students reported having carried a weapon on school property within the previous 30 days, 9.6% of the students were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property one or more times during the past 12 months, and 5.9% of students felt too unsafe to go to school on one or more times during the past 30 days. The percentage of

females that were hit, slapped or physically hurt by their boyfriends/girlfriends during the past 12 months decreased significantly from 13.5% to 10.8%. Figure I shows a comparison between YRBS data from 2005 and 2007.

FIGURE I
2007 Indiana YRBS
Violence



* One or more times during the past 12 months ** One or more times during the past 30 days

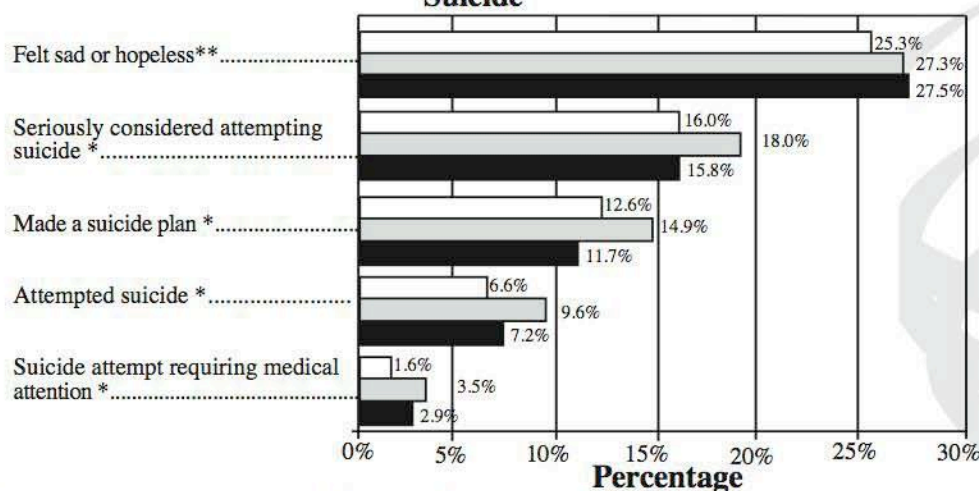
Suicide

National statistics show that suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death among young people from 15 to 24 years of age in the United States.³ According to the 2007 Indiana YRBS, 27.5% of high school students reported feeling sad or hopeless one or more times during the past 12 months, and 15.8% of students said they had seriously considered attempting suicide as compared to 18% in 2005. Also, 36.2% of females reported feeling sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more.

2007 Indiana Youth Risk Behavior Survey

FIGURE II
2007 Indiana YRBS
Suicide

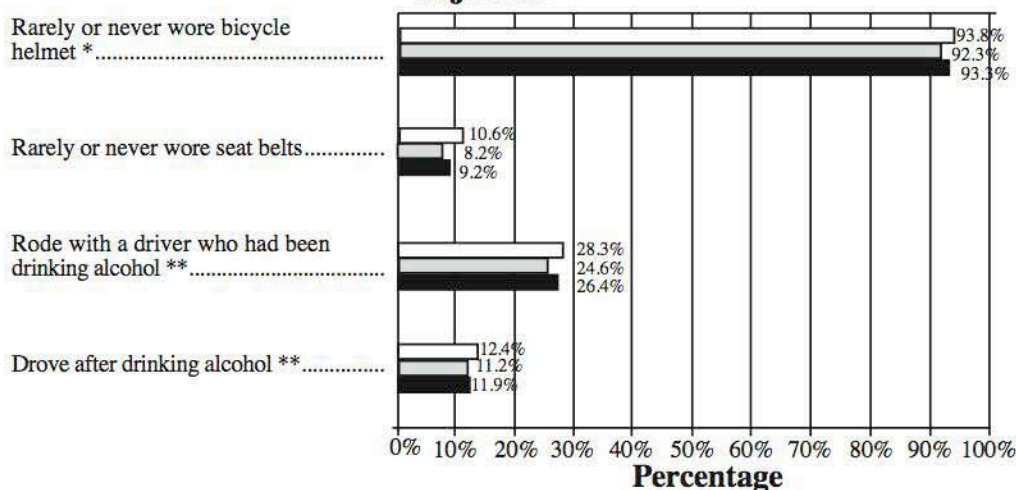
□ 2003 □ 2005 ■ 2007



* One or more times during the past 12 months **Almost everyday for 2 weeks or more

FIGURE III
2007 Indiana YRBS
Injuries

□ 2003 □ 2005 ■ 2007



* One or more times during the past 12 months **One or more times during the past 30 days

Injury

Helmets are the single most effective safety devices available to avoid head injuries. According to the CDC, bicycle helmets have been shown to reduce the risk of head injury by as much as 85% and the risk of brain injury by as much as 88%. According to the 2007 Indiana YRBS data, 93.3% of High school students in Indiana reported rarely or never wearing a bicycle helmet.

Alcohol is another major factor in many motor vehicle crash deaths and injuries. The National Center for Injury Prevention and Control show that more than two-thirds of fatally injured children were riding with drinking drivers.² According to 2007 Indiana YRBS data, 26.4% of high school students rode with a driver who had been drinking alcohol one or more times during the past 30 days. The survey also showed that a greater number of males (15%) drove after drinking alcohol as compared to females (8.6%).

Healthy People 2010 goals:

- p 15-19 Increase the use of safety belts to 92%.
- p 15-23 Increase use of helmets by bicyclists (developmental).
- p 15-38 Reduce physical fighting among adolescents to 32%.
- p 15-39 Reduce weapon carrying by adolescents on school property to 4.9%.
- p 26-6 Reduce the proportion of adolescents who report that they rode, during the previous 30 days, with a driver who had been drinking alcohol to 30%.

References:

1. Youth Violence Fact Sheet. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Accessed from: <<http://cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/yvfacts.htm>>
2. Child Passenger Safety: Fact Sheet. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Accessed from: <<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/childpas.htm>>
3. Suicide Prevention. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Accessed from <<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/dvp/Suicide/youthsuicide.htm>>

Go to www.in.gov/yrbs for a complete set of fact sheets, tables, graphs, and confidence intervals for all of the 2007 YRBS data. Confidence intervals should be utilized to determine which changes are statistically significant.

For More Information:

Indiana State Department of Health: 1-800-433-0746
 2007 Indiana Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS): www.in.gov/yrbs
 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System: www.cdc.gov/heathyyouth/yrbs